

Garage Sale Gal

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Lynda Hammond

I was winding down my garage sale bargain hunting one recent Saturday morning when I came across something pretty exciting. It had been a fairly routine day, so far-- maybe even a little ho-hum. I'd found a few things--a framed print for a \$1 and a set of eight rare collectible bowls and plates by Villeroy & Boch for just \$2. I was making my way back home in the northeast part of Mesa when I saw a small sign on the ground directing buyers down a secluded dirt road. So, I took the bait. Just one more sale, I thought, and then I'm done for the day. I drove slowly on the rough road-- over rocks and holes, dodging lizards—all the while hoping I didn't break my new found items in the backseat! When I finally arrived at the house, I didn't see anything for sale but I did see a lot of cars. Garage saling is such an adventure and at times mysterious.

The sale was in the backyard and as I walked around the corner I couldn't believe my eyes. If this were a movie this is where the harpsichord would come in—the moment when something wonderful happens and it's reflected with a crescendo. The yard was packed full of just about anything you could want---books, furniture, lamps, clothes and jewelry, art and so much more.

Kirk Kennedy was having the sale with his wife and neighbors. Some of the merchandise came from storage units the Kennedy's had emptied. Kirk's wife, Jean, says it been in boxes since 2003 and it was time to "just get rid of the stuff".

I started to leave empty handed but something glistening in the sun caught my eye—it was a beautiful, old leaded glass window. I didn't know the price but I knew I wanted it no matter what. It was marked \$40. I paid \$25.

The window is technically a transom—a fixed, decorative window typically placed horizontally above other windowpanes. They were popular in the early 1900s and were often found in Victorian-style homes. Kirk—just like me—also came upon the rare gem by chance. "Yeah, I bought that old window at a garage sale in Minneapolis about 20 years ago." Kirk planned on incorporating into a home he'd build in the Valley but it just never fit in.

The style wouldn't fit well in my house either —at least not as a window---but think how gorgeous it would look as a sofa table!

I love buying things at garage sales and using them in unexpected ways. Here are some other ideas:

1/Reader's Digest books- These colorful, hardcover leather-bound books are rarely read anymore but they are used by decorators to add a classy touch to a home. Put them on a book shelf. Or stack two books together, lay them flat on a coffee table and put a vase, plant or candle on top. I pay .10-\$1.00 each at garage sales.

2/Old, leather suitcases- Make an end table out of these-- stack them together and top off with beveled glass. I usually buy suitcases for about a buck at most garage sales and if they're covered with vintage travel stickers—well, that's even better.

3/Birdcages-Buy wooden or iron coops and instead of putting them outside, position them above your kitchen cabinets for a cool decorator's touch.

Giving new life to old relics---I just love garage sales.

MY FAVORITE FIND



Caption: Kirk Kennedy of northeast Mesa poses next to an old window I bought at his recent garage sale. Kirk restores antique windows in his spare time.

Credit: Lynda Hammond

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona. Put some extra money in your pocket have a garage sale! And make sure you list it on www.GarageSaleGal.com